



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

opi.mt.gov

Office of Public Instruction
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT, 59620-2501
(406) 444-3095
(888) 231-9393
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)
opi.mt.gov

THINK FOOD

School Nutrition Programs

Shipment 5

November 2011

PROCESSING FAIR A HUGE SUCCESS!

In October over 30 USDA Foods processing vendors from across the nation along with School Nutrition professionals from across Montana met in Great Falls for the first Montana USDA Foods Processing Fair. The two-day event was hosted by the OPI School Nutrition Programs along with the Montana Team Nutrition office.



The first day of the event was spent learning about the USDA Foods processing possibilities through discussion along with presentations by the OPI/Team Nutrition staff as well as School Nutrition professionals. The vendors participated in a round table discussion with each vendor explaining their processing programs along with the Net Off Invoice (NOI) and Fee for Service requirements.

The second day of the fair, processors prepared samples of some of the foods they process using the USDA Foods. There were beef, chicken, potatoes, tomatoes, flour, cheese, pork and fish products for everyone to sample and evaluate. Participants evaluated items on their taste, nutritional value, packaging and cost.

The evaluation forms were brought back to the OPI School Nutrition office and will be tabulated. The results will be sent out in a future issue of the Think Food as well as being posted on our OPI School Nutrition Programs Web site. Watch for them in the coming weeks.

USDA CANCELS DICED TOMATO ORDERS



The USDA recently cancelled all diced tomato orders. All orders have been deleted. They were scheduled to be shipped on Shipment 7. A possible replacement for the tomatoes on that shipment will be half of the salsa from Shipment 9.

USDA FOODS PROCESSING

If your school ordered USDA Foods for further processing be sure to contact the sales rep, broker, vendor or processor, whichever the case may be, to order the product you want your USDA Foods made into. Processing companies cannot hold product indefinitely. There were large amounts of carryover in 2011 for potatoes, chicken, and peanut butter.





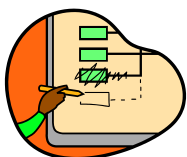
USDA FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE OFFERINGS

The USDA announced that it is making available the Fresh Sliced Apples and Baby Carrots Program to all states. These products would be purchased using your regular entitlement dollars and shipped to you from your local distributor. So far interest is high among Montana schools. Orders must be placed by November 14, 2011 for deliveries in January through March. Watch for more information via e-mail and MTLunchline.

2013 USDA FOODS ORDERS

Ordering USDA Foods for the 2013 school year will begin soon. Watch for more information regarding when the OPI Food Distribution Ordering Web site will be available.

Enclosed with this information newsletter is a copy of *More Bites for Your Buck\$* a resource created by the OPI School Nutrition Programs staff. The resource provides valuable information about the USDA Foods Program along with the Cooperative Purchase Program.



SHIPMENT 6 CHANGES

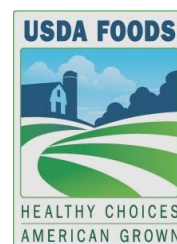
The USDA changed the delivery date of the pancakes from September to February. They were originally scheduled for Shipment 6 but have been moved to Shipment 10. The frozen corn from Shipment 8 will replace the pancakes on Shipment 6. A replacement for the frozen corn on Shipment 8 will be announced later.

We apologize for any inconvenience these changes may cause. The USDA does its best

to fill orders as requested but sometimes products just aren't available.

USDA FOODS VIDEO

The USDA has created a YouTube video to promote the USDA Foods used in school lunches. To view click on this link http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CTe1TGD8II.



The video is also available on the OPI School Nutrition Web site at http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/USDA.html.



THANKSGIVING WORD SEARCH

COLONY, COOK, CORN, FALL, FAMILY, FEAST, HARVEST, INDIANS, PIE, PILGRIMS, SAIL, THANKS, TURKEY

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | T | U | R | K | E | Y | W | G | M |
| A | V | T | S | E | V | R | A | H | S |
| M | P | U | M | P | K | I | N | P | F |
| I | N | D | I | A | N | S | A | I | L |
| L | R | V | R | C | S | D | Q | E | T |
| Y | O | K | G | K | K | C | R | Q | I |
| K | C | O | L | O | N | Y | C | B | S |
| X | N | O | I | F | A | L | L | V | Z |
| S | R | C | P | J | H | I | J | P | V |
| N | S | U | W | F | T | S | A | E | F |

